



NEWS

From County Supervisor Paul Biane

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Board Approves Funding Agreement for Glen Helen Parkway Crossing Project

SAN BERNARDINO – On Tuesday, the Board of Supervisors approved an agreement with the County's transportation agency to fund the design of a rail-highway grade separation on Glen Helen Parkway in Devore.

The agreement calls for San Bernardino Associated Governments to provide \$1.6 million from Measure I revenue for the design of the grade crossing project. Measure I is a half-cent, voter-approved sales tax. Measure I funds are used for transportation projects throughout the County of San Bernardino. The County's share of the design cost will be about \$651,000.

The County plans to build a grade separation on Glen Helen Parkway over busy Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Union Pacific rail lines that are used by trains carrying freight through the Cajon Pass. The project is expected to cost more \$26 million.

"Glen Helen Parkway is the gateway to Glen Helen Regional Park, one of the County's most popular recreation destinations, as well as the San Manuel Amphitheater, the largest outdoor concert venue in the nation," San Bernardino County Second District Supervisor Paul Biane said. "The parkway grade separation project is critical for the viability of these two venues, and it's also key to improving emergency access to the venues and neighboring communities."

Nearly 100 trains – some more than a mile long – cross Glen Helen Parkway daily, causing long traffic delays on the alternative route between I-15 and I-215. Construction of the grade separation project is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2010.

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